FBIS

DAILY REPORT

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[illegible] (E) Jan 94 [illegible]

[illegible] with [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] Claims [illegible] Information

[illegible] (AFP) 21 Jan 94

[Text] [illegible], 21 Jan (AFP) -- Official government sources in [illegible] claim for the moment to have no information to confirm from [illegible] about alleged confrontations between Peruvian and Ecuadorian troops in the border region that have resulted in the death of 11 Ecuadorian soldiers.

It is reported that the Foreign Ministry is being informed by military sources and that a government communique is forthcoming.

Clash, Casualties Confirmed

[illegible] [illegible] 21 Jan 94

[By reporter Victor Ariel]

[Text] The Ecuadorian National Defense Ministry has confirmed the border incident that occurred in the eastern central zone, at the Cordillera Militar detachment, where Ecuadorian soldiers returned enemy fire. One soldier, [illegible] Ecuador Batallona', was killed, and [illegible] Battalion was injured. The National Defense Ministry will submit the appropriate report to the Ecuadorian Foreign Ministry so that it can make the necessary complaint to the Peruvian authorities.

Foreign Ministry Communique

[illegible] [illegible] 21 Jan 94

[Text] Lima, 21 Jan (EFE) -- One Ecuadorian soldier died and another was wounded in the skirmish between Peruvian and Ecuadorian soldiers that took place on Sunday at the Lagartaya Bridge. This is according to the official communique issued today by the Ecuadorian Foreign Ministry that was announced by a Guayaquil radio that is in contact with the Peruvian radio "Radiorreloj Peru."

This report comes to disagree with an unofficial announcement issued here that stated that 11 or 12 Ecuadorian soldiers were killed in the clash.

For its part, the Peruvian Joint Staff Command has reported that an Ecuadorian patrol attacked a Peruvian border advance post in the Rio Cordillera sector. According to this report, the Peruvian forces repelled the attack, which took place in the predawn hours of Sunday. It adds that proper measures are being implemented to restore calm in the area. According to this report, the incident took place in the area last mentioned.

[Text] [illegible] the Peruvian Foreign Ministry is keeping silent on the incident, and its press office has noted that it will soon issue a communique in this regard.

According to the Ecuadorian radio, Peruvian soldiers opened fire in the Rio Cordillera area, killing one soldier, [illegible Lang] and wounding another, [illegible Ruiz].

The Ecuadorian Embassy in Lima has noted that it will issue information on this incident.

[illegible] 17 Dec 94 [illegible]

The deadline with which the report was supposed to be received, but it has not been [illegible] recommendations of this nature have resulted in court [illegible] without [illegible] in Latin America, arranged through confrontation between the Foreign Administration and Democratic leaders in Congress, who have labeled the attempt "unconstitutional" [illegible] violations "perhaps."

[illegible] that modifying [illegible] a treaty.

"It is President"s [illegible]

[illegible] Caracas City- A [illegible] 21 Dec 94 pp 1, 2

[Excerpt] The National Legislative Council has modified the electoral code, granting the post for President Elizabeth de la Cartolla so that she is constitutional candidate.

The National Legislative Council has approved more than 50 reforms to the electoral code, one of which removes the ban that established incumbent presidents from participation as candidates because of their status as public servants holding [illegible] authority. The reformed article now reads, "the leaders of public administration and of the [illegible] Council who have [illegible] functions," and thus does not refer to the head of the executive branch, who is the president of the Republic.

"Tribunal President on Reforms

[illegible] Caracas City Circuit- RCP Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 21 Dec 94

[Announcer-introduced report over video]

[Excerpt] The electoral code reforms that the National Legislative Council approved late yesterday in its second debate on the issue represent a substantial change for the elections that are to be held in the 1990s, Dr Cesar Quintero, president of the Electoral Tribunal, has said in an exclusive interview with Circuit RCP Television.

Although the tribunal president was cautious in making his statements, it can easily be seen that the reforms of the electoral code put the election in danger.

[Quintero] Minister, the idea that the reforms allow President Alcazar de la Cartolla to be a presidential candidate in the upcoming elections. [illegible] clearly stated that on the basis of articles 173 and 18 of the Constitution, the president cannot be a candidate if he declared in the same year.

"Defense Forces Oppose Reforms

[illegible] Caracas City Circuit RCP Television in Spanish 2130 GMT 21 Dec 94

[Commentator-issued by the National Defense Forces of the Republic of Caracas --- date and place not given]

[Text] The Defense Forces of the Republic of Caracas view with concern the electoral code that could create confusion, mistrust, lack of credibility, and division among the various political sectors of the nation with great [illegible] especially in view of the proximity of the general elections, which must take place in the next [illegible] year.

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] that have suffered in this crisis, which was made for propaganda purposes. The information was received in [illegible] after the alleged seizure of 30 FMLN rebels from the Treasury Police who were guarding the San Manuel Bridge. The invasion failed to [illegible] that type of equipment. A clandestine radio station [illegible] announced reports from the site of the battles, which it did not have but reported [illegible] the clandestine was suddenly terminated.

In this morning's actions, two Treasury Policemen, one national policeman, and five soldiers were killed defending the city. Fifteen soldiers were wounded. At this time, the Salvadoran Army is pursuing the FMLN extremists who were able to flee the city, including the [illegible] number of casualties.

[illegible] Headquarters Destroyed: FMLN

[illegible] San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish [illegible] GMT 16 Jan 84

[text] Guerrilla command by the Armed Forces Press Committee, COPREFA, in San Salvador at [illegible]

[text] They Believed Their Own Lies

"El Libertador had to flee from Chalatenango because they believed it was true that the Salvadoran Armed Forces were demoralized, disorganized, without appropriate leaders, and engaged in [illegible] drafting the citizenry. The rebels tried to take over Chalatenango and established the so-called 'Military Detachment's Law' [illegible] there at dawn this morning.

"The extremist groups were fooled by their own lies; now [illegible] expect the Armed Forces' strong resistance. The Armed Forces not only prevented the rebel takeover, but they also [illegible] the FMLN's contingent.

"The FMLN will not be able to hide its defeat. This morning a clandestine station reportedly broadcast some reports from the alleged site of the clash, and they -- suddenly and for no apparent reason -- the station cut off its broadcast.

FMLN Reports Attack's Casualties

[illegible] clandestine] Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador [illegible] GMT 16 Jan 84

[text] An [illegible] to casualties on the Salvadoran's forces and destroyed [illegible] carriers on the road from El Paraiso to Chalatenango. This has raised to more than [illegible] the number of enemy casualties during the clashes that have place yesterday morning in the Department of Chalatenango.

Says the [illegible] [Armed Forces Press Committee] calls an efficient reaction of the armed forces [word indistinct] given to some idea of the Army's predicament, as its troops are burning more and more excluded to their barracks, while our guerrilla forces control the areas under revolutionary control throughout the country.

FMLN 'Tranquil' Policy Claims It Fires Blanks

[illegible] San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish [illegible] GMT 16 Jan 84

[text] Leftist rebels blocked traffic in the jurisdiction of Tierra Blanca, Usulutan [illegible]. FMLN guerrillas and Treasury Police attached to Tierra Blanca Garrison, in the southeast of San Salvador, clashed for approximately a hours in the neighborhood known as El Cain.

A [illegible] report reveals that three leftist members died and two Treasury Policemen were seriously wounded. Traffic returned to normal in the late afternoon. Military reports however that traffic remained normal today.

TERRORIST ACTS MINIMUM CONCERN TO AG PRESS

Salvador Commentary Radio Broadcasts in Spanish to El Salvador 2000 GMT 11 Jan 84

[Text] Captain Eduardo Avila, the killer of two U.S. servicemen reports and Rodolfo Viera, President of the Salvadoran Institute of Agrarian Transformation, ISTA, will go down next Wednesday because his arrest was a mistake, some justices of the Supreme Court of Justice have ruled.

This will be the second time that Capt Avila has gone free because of [illegible] to the extreme right, which argued that not [illegible] is run by the extreme right, that is the National Association of Private Enterprise, ANEP, the Nationalist Republican Alliance, ARENA, the Salvadoran Industrialists Association, and the sector of the AFES belonging to the death squads.

The first time Avila was arrested, he only was to be released, but he claimed a decision [illegible] to General Garcia's dismissal as defense minister. Capt Avila, who has a long criminal record in our country, has also been involved in international terrorist activities, such as the one in San Jose, Costa Rica, where an attempt was made on the life of an [illegible] citizen. At the time of this incident, Avila was the Salvadoran Embassy's military aide in San Jose.

CHAIRMAN

ARMY SPOKESMAN DISCUSSES ELECTORAL PROGRAM

Salvador Commercial City Radio Nuevo Mundo in Spanish 1200 GMT 11 Jan 84

[Text] Official army spokesman Colonel Edgar Fialles Dominguez has announced the Army General Staff has submitted a specific electoral program establishing that presidential elections will be convened by the end of this year.

The army spokesman said that, according to the calendar submitted to the AFES after convening the presidential elections in the country, the elections will take place on March 1982 so that General Oscar Bolio Viteores can transfer power on 1 July to whomever is elected.

Col Fialles Dominguez said that it is unthinkable [illegible] that Gen Bolio Viteores is planning to stay in power. The removal of the top government officials on 9 August 1983 was precisely because they had such intentions.

The army spokesman affirmed that Bolio Viteores will head the government until 30 June 1982, and on 1 July he will transfer the reins of government to the candidate elected. On that same day, he will put away his uniform, dress in civilian clothes, and go fishing.

Fialles Dominguez also said that the job of the Constituent Assembly is to draft a new constitution. This should be an [illegible] because of the many constitutions that have been issued in the country. In addition, the Constituent Assembly will have to draft new electoral and habeas corpus laws, but under no circumstances will it try to perpetuate its power.

MILITARY SOURCES REPORT LATEST VIOLENCE

FL1201204 Panama City SCAD in Spanish 1400 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] Guatemala City, 12 Jan (ACAN-EFE) -- Last night guerrillas attacked a Guatemalan National Police station in Guatemala City, but they were repelled by security forces, official sources reported today.

The Clandestine Revolutionary Organization of the People in Arms, ORPA, has claimed responsibility for the attack in phone calls to several Guatemalan newspapers, stating that it was "a protest of 'Yankee' intervention in Central America's political affairs."

Meanwhile, the police reported the death of former Police Captain Bernardino Cuetz Castillo, brother of the College Chief of Police, who has been missing since 11 November 1983. College is east of Guatemala City.

The Cuetz Castillo family said that the former captain and his aide were probably killed in an attempted kidnapping. His aide was found dead inside the vehicle. The relatives added that thus far they have no information on the fate of the other brother, Colonel Captain Cuetz Castillo, who was abducted with his wife.

The Guatemalan Army also reported that antigovernment groups attacked the "Castillo" farm, in the northern department of Izabal, killing one person and causing damages of several thousand quetzales.

The armed forces also reported that military patrols are on the trail of a guerrilla column in the Petexbatun Department, west of Guatemala City, which held the village of Dolores for 3 hours yesterday.

SECURITY FORCES ATTACK GUERRILLA HIDEOUT

FL1301230 Guatemala City Radio Nacional Onda in Spanish 0030 GMT 13 Jan 84

[Text] Approximately 500 government security agents this afternoon participated in an operation in Zone 2, where the authorities had apparently discovered a guerrilla redoubt. The government forces used a helicopter, a light tank, and three assault trucks. The objective was to seize the house at No 760 4th Street, Zone 2, beside the Israelite Temple.

The light tank fired several times at the house, which caught fire in a few minutes. Afterward, firemen extinguished the fire. Security agents then entered the house.

A high-ranking police chief personally supervised the attack. It has been reported that several men were found dead inside. Thus far there is no report on how many people were in the building or their identity. Allegedly there was a woman among those inside the house. Her identity has not been revealed by the government forces, who prevented journalists from approaching the area.

Army Reports Details

FL1401234 Guatemala City Radio Nacional Onda in Spanish 1230 GMT 14 Jan 84

[Text] Colonel Pablo Zeissiger, chief of the Guatemalan Army Information Department, gave the Guatemala Flash Program some details on the events that occurred last Thursday, specifically on the operation that culminated with the death of three guerrillas. Most importantly, one of the men killed was Commander [illegible], leader of the so-called People's Revolutionary Movement, MRP, an ORPA [Revolutionary Organization of the People in Arms] dissident group.

Borge himself has USG-EC relations as difficult, but added that he felt that the Nicaraguan Government's efforts have helped improve the climate at the governmental level and that, therefore, our traditional good relations need not be curtailed. Borge also referred to the possibility of strengthening both trade and the search for mechanisms that will help to enhance our relations, Commander Ruiz added.

The meeting held with the Costa Rican president was among those the Sandinist leader held with Colombian President Belisario Betancur, Dominican President Salvador Jorge Blanco, and the Cuban president, Osvaldo Dorticos.

U.S. PARLIAMENTARIANS ARRIVE ON OFFICIAL VISIT

[illegible] Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 24 Jan 84

[illegible] a delegation from the Latin American Parliament, which arrived here on an official visit this weekend, has reaffirmed its unconditional support for the Contadora Group's peace efforts. This announcement was made by Dr Marcos Proano, president of that Latin American organization's political commission, and head of a delegation of deputies who visited us, who will remain here until 29 January.

Proano, who is a member of the Ecuadoran Parliament, termed the Contadora Group's actions as unwavering, and urged other nations to endorse this group, which is demonstrating political pluralism with actions that are based on international law.

The delegation, which includes four senators, two deputies, the technical coordinator of the political commission, and its president, will participate on Tuesday in the second session of the special period of the State Council, which is currently debating the Political Parties Law.

NOBLE ON UPCOMING ELECTION, OTHER TOPICS

[illegible] Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 24 Jan 84

[illegible] On the 1984 elections here in Nicaragua, the people will elect a president and a vice president as well as a legislative assembly that will also be a constituent assembly. These are some of the proposals submitted to the electoral commission and announced last Saturday by State Council President and Commander of the Revolution Carlos Nunez Tellez, after getting these proposals on the backburner of the electoral process that we'll begin on 31 January, the revolutionary leader explained that the national legislative assembly will include 90 representatives, that is, 1 for every 25,000 residents, or 1 representative for every 25,000 voters.

The main responsibility of the national assembly will be to draft the political constitution that will replace the current fundamental Statute on the Rights and Guarantees of the Nicaraguan People, which was issued by the Government Junta in 1979.

The executive and legislative branches will be elected for a 6-year period, on the basis of a system of proportional representation and in accordance with the country's administrative division, which includes six regions and three special areas on the Atlantic Coast.

[illegible]

[illegible] Sandinista leader Daniel Ortega's position as interpreted by middle-of-the-road citizens as an attempt to find a "middle road," a phrase the revolutionaries adopted to refer to efforts to reject power, according to Nicaraguan citizens. "Sandinista Page" has held meetings in the last few weeks with Christian grassroots members to find "more pluralist solutions," in his own words.

According to Page Vega, "we must find paths of integration and democratization that will lead to change without destruction. There are opposing elements that must reconciliation." He said. "Foreign action is tantamount to the impossibility of arriving at this. The foreign problem is caused by repression at home. If the ends, the effect will also end," said Vega, referring to Nicaragua's political situation.

[illegible] Manager in PRENSA in Spanish 1445 GMT 11 Jan 84

[Excerpt] Victor Corinto Lopez and Silvio Pedro Espinoza were elected coordinator and vice coordinator of the Democratic Conservative Party of Nicaragua, PCDN, during the National Executive Council Plenary meeting last Thursday.

The election of the two main PCDN leaders ended the traditional partial experiment after the Supreme Court of Justice declared the party's recent national convention illegal. Mario Rappaccioli was elected coordinator at that occasion.

The new PCDN leaders will have the task of working for the party's unity, despite the currently conflictive matters to find a satisfactory solution to their problems. The solution must be sought through an open dialogue. This dialogue will be possible through the organization of a constitutional convocation composed of representatives from every department in the country.

[illegible] Manager Radio Sandino network in Spanish 2300 GMT 11 Jan 84

[Excerpt] Virgilio Godoy, president of the Independent Liberal Party, PLI, has said that his party agrees with the political opening now being implemented. Commenting on the revolutionary government's political opening, Godoy said that the PLI agrees with the decisions being held on the electoral regulations and the political parties law.

[Begin Godoy recording] The PLI has repeatedly insisted that there is a need to deepen the process of restoring democracy in the country. All of these are all part of that process, and we agree with all of them. [end recording]

As for the demand that the contributing Social Christian Democratic Organization Social parties that the government grant amnesty to the Somocist guard officers and the counterrevolutionary leaders who receive orders from the U.S. Government, the PLI leader said that such a position in support of those who were responsible for committing against our people is not proper.

FT 17 Jan 84 C-1 [illegible]

REPORT ON SALVADORAN DEATH SQUAD [illegible]

Publication: Foreign Broadcast Information Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 16 Jan 84

[Text] The Salvadoran guerrilla station Radio Farabundo Marti has reported that the rebels infiltrated 30 casualties of the regime's army, including 14 dead, during an ambush of a military convoy on the Northern Trunk Highway between the cities of Usulutan and Aguilares. The station added that, at the same time, FMLN support units dynamited electrical power posts in Aguilares, interrupting the area's electrical supply.

Radio Farabundo Marti stated that Salvadoran regime chief Alvaro Magana maintains efficient involvement with the death squads in the highest military positions. He is secretly making pacts with these officials to avoid more division within the Armed Forces. The rebel station added that revolutionary justice will reach those criminals, who are guilty of murdering more than 35,000 Salvadorans.

Other reports say that the Independent Movement of Salvadoran Professional and Technical Personnel has stated that the elections scheduled by the regime for March 25 are intended to give an air of legality to the increased U.S. military presence in El Salvador.

REPORTAGE ON SALVADORAN GUERRILLA ACTIVITY

Government Versus Guerrillas

Publication: Foreign Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 13 Jan 84

[Text] Salvadoran guerrilla forces have infiltrated 20 casualties on government forces in San Pablo Tacachico, northwest of San Salvador. According to the report, supplied by the AGENCIA INDEPENDIENTE DE PRENSA, the rebels ambushed soldiers of San Juan Opico's Artillery Brigade at [illegible] Bridge, 34 km northwest of San Salvador. Near this bridge, the rebels attacked government positions located in agricultural installations run by the military.

The agency disclosed that the result of these operations was 11 soldiers killed, 9 wounded, and an armored vehicle destroyed. Later on, the regime's artillery forces attacked towns near San Pablo Tacachico, indiscriminately killing three children and two adults.

FMLN Attacks Chalatenango

Publication: Foreign Intercontinental Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 14 Jan 84

[Text] At least 7 soldiers were killed and 15 wounded when FMLN forces attacked the Chalatenango Military Garrison, east of Zone Detachment No 1 where the Ciaspo Battalion is stationed. At the same time other rebel groups harrassed several strategic points in the city of Chalatenango.

This is the second attack carried out by Salvadoran guerrillas in that area. On 30 December, guerrillas took over the El Paraiso Garrison, east of the 4th Bridge, with a toll of more than 100 soldiers killed. Radio Farabundo Marti reported that during the Chalatenango action the rebels recovered 30 weapons and freed the inmates of the local jail.

[illegible] [illegible] Jan 84 [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] After the guerrilla attack, the Salvadoran Air Force began bombing presumed rebel redoubts in the outskirts of the city, which is located approximately 50 km northeast of San Salvador.

San Salvador's Vicloy, Thair Arturo Rivera y Damas, stated in a report released today that the Salvadoran war caused the deaths of more than 1,000 civilians and almost 1,500 soldiers in 1983. The Canadian Broadcasting Corporation reported on Sunday that the main authors of civilian killings in El Salvador are the regime-linked death squads. The station based its reports on the testimony of former death squad members and a dissident leader who was tortured and believed dead.

Latest Rebel Actions

FLN/FARN Spanish Domestic Service in Spanish 1241 GMT 24 Jan 84

[Text] It has been learned that Salvadoran insurgents inflicted 30 casualties on the regime's troops in an action that occurred 29 km from San Salvador. The clash occurred when rebels flew up a stretch of a highway and ambushed a group of horsemen near Cuscatancingo.

Meanwhile, TBS Hill Cuba [TBS] admitted that FMLN guerrilla forces are keeping tight control over a 50-square mile area around Suchitoto in the Pacific. It was also reported that the Salvadoran guerrillas attacked the Chalatenango garrison, headquarters of the 1st Army Detachment, with mortar shells and small arms fire. At least 7 soldiers were killed and 11 were wounded in this attack.

REPATRIATION OF GUATEMALAN REFUGEES REPORTED

FLN/FDR Spanish Domestic Service in Spanish 1130 GMT 24 Jan 84

[Text] The government of Oscar Mario Vitrones is involved in desperate efforts aimed at the return of 40,000 Guatemalan refugees from Mexico in order to prevent a further deterioration of its repressive image. The refugee problem again becomes an international issue a few days ago when the Guatemalan Government called for the repatriation of its nationals who are in Mexico. This was viewed as a condition of Mario Vitrones for his support for the Contadora Group. Although the Guatemalan Foreign Ministry delivered to the Mexican Foreign Secretariat a draft plan for the repatriation of refugees, the Mexican Government reiterated that the return of refugees must be individually resolved with those Guatemalans who want to voluntarily return.

GUERRILLA ACTIONS IN GUATEMALA REPORTED

Radio Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 25 Jan 84

[Text] The Guatemalan guerrilla forces have inflicted nine casualties on army troops in an ambush carried out in the western Quiche Department. Military sources said the ambush took place last Friday, near the Chenaj village, when the troops were on patrol.

Three rights organizations in Guatemala have reported that over the past 7 days at least 30 persons have been victims of the repression unleashed by Oscar Mario Vitrones' regime. The same sources said that 14 of these persons were murdered and 13 were kidnapped, 3 of them in Retalhuleu Department in the southern part of the country, and the other 1 shot and wounded.

The committee for Trade Union Unity said that the persecution of labor leaders continues in Guatemala and that the massive dismissal of workers from the Central American clothes industry has left hundreds without jobs.

JOINT COOPERATION COMMISSION TO MEET IN HAVANA

PL110300 Bridgetown CANA in English 1331 GMT 11 Jan 84

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Jan 11 (CANA) -- The Guyana-Cuba Joint Commission set up in March 1977 will meet in Havana from January 23 to 28 for its sixth session, at which concrete plans will be put forward to strengthen cooperation between the two countries, a government spokesman said here today. Minister of Health and Public Welfare Doctor Richard Tancred Charles will head a six-member team to the meeting, the spokesman said.

Likely items on the agenda were discussed in Georgetown this week between a visiting Cuban team and Doctor Charles, Foreign Minister Rashleigh Jackson, and senior government officials, the spokesman said. The Cubans, director of the Latin American Division of the Cuban Foreign Ministry, Nicolas Rodriguez, and head of the Caribbean Department, Nelson Bastan, also discussed the international situation, including Central America and the Caribbean.

Guyana and Cuba established diplomatic relations in 1972.

MINISTER CALLS FOR INCREASED PRODUCTION

PL110727 Georgetown Guyana Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 10 Jan 84

[Text] Economic Planning and Finance Minister Carl Greenidge has said increased production is absolutely essential if Guyana is to overcome the problems facing the nation. He said the government could take a number of measures to increase production and introduce some measure of relief to consumers.

But the minister noted that some of these initiatives [words indistinct] for the benefit of consumers have been [word indistinct] by the merchants of the parallel market. Greenidge referred to the problem [words indistinct] cause, flour, sugar, and almost any commodity that can be transferred because of the price component. He said Guyanese must be able to purchase some of these commodities because of the action by a few in having all the stock and selling them abroad for private profit, leaving this country of any benefits.

The minister said the parallel market has become increasingly active for the past 3 years, that a multi-sectoral campaign will be launched to curb the spread of the activity.

[illegible]

[illegible] Bridgetown [illegible] 0127 GMT 11 Jan 84

[Text] Paramaribo, Suriname, Jan 11 (CANA) -- Commercial banks here, which closed nearly two weeks, the strike of strike action, were reopened today, but offered only limited services as Suriname remained in the grips of industrial action apparently aimed at toppling the military government.

The bank workers who stayed off the job yesterday were still out at work today, leaving the four commercial banks which were able to handle deposits and withdrawals only.

Workers in the construction industry -- which accounts for more than three-quarters of Suriname's foreign exchange earnings -- have been on strike since December 19, with government estimating its losses due to the strike at 20 million dollars (U.S.). Since then the American-owned Suriname Aluminium Company (Suralco) has closed its plant here indefinitely.

Government army officers closed on the crisis facing the regime escalated.

According to reporters in Paramaribo here, the strikers are demanding an end to military rule, a return to democracy, and return of the Constitution, suspended in 1980 after a military coup.

The official Suriname News Agency (SNA) said today it [illegible] Col Desi Bouterse, who has been the military strongman here ever since the coup, had been still trying to find a solution to the crisis.

Other Workers Join Strike

PA170844 Bridgetown CANA in English 1700 GMT 10 Jan 84

[Text] Paramaribo, Suriname, Jan 10 (CANA) -- Thousands of [illegible] under an industrial action aimed at forcing Suriname's military rulers out of power continued to grip South American country.

Reporters were taken to outside when this morning owners of most of the privately-owned banks withdrew their services to the public, the official Suriname News Agency (SNA) reported. SNA said it was not known why the privately-owned banks, which accounted for about 90 per cent of the public transport in Suriname, were taken off the road.

The banking and [illegible] workers have been hit by strikes, with workers demanding an end to military rule, a return to democracy, and a return of the Constitution, suspended in 1980 after the coup led by military strongman Desi Bouterse.

Six of the five banks and their branches throughout the country, which were hit by a walkout of their workforce late last week, are now back in full operation. The two were identified as the Bank of Suriname and the Savings Bank. "The other three, the Nederlandse Bank, the Hakrin Bank, and the People's Credit Bank, although still being hit by the walkout, are functioning, but only with management staff," the agency said. "Most of the operations of these banks have been closed as the workers are still off the job."